Portland

Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the

Portland Urban District Council

for the year ending 31st. December 1897.

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I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1897.

POPULATION

It is exceedingly difficult to arrive at a reliable estimate of the population of Portland at present. We feel sure that it is at least 9000, although it is probably greater. 9000 is the number we have used in calculating the death-rate, birth-rate etc. The population is a very fluctuating one, but there can be no doubt from the large number of new houses recently erected , and the great demand for house accomodation which still exists, that it is steadily increasing.

Births. The number of births registered was as follows:-

January	24	53 in 1st quarter.
February	12	
March	17	
April	21	62 in 2nd quarter
May	23	
June	18	
July	18	58 in 3rd quarter
August	19	
September	21	
October	19	64 in 4th quarter
November	16	
December	29	
Total	237	

There were 128 males and 109 females.

The birth-rate for 1897 is ~~ni~~ 23.939 per 1000

Report of the National Federation of Women of the
Philippines Human Diagnostic Committee
for the year ending 31st December 1970.

I have the honour to submit the following report.

Medical Aid.

It is unfortunately the sad fact of life in a tiny Pacific Kingdom
in the communication of politics or weather. The less said the
better. Although it is generally thought. Much of the
reason is more than a matter of communication the weather, politics etc.
The population is a very flourishing one, and there can be no doubt
that the large amount of new cases involve , and the
great demand for home accommodation which exists. This is
strongly increasing.

Visits. The number of visits registered was as follows:-

January 94
February 82 (of the weather)
March 77
April 87
May 94 (as for quality)
June 77
July 77
August 73 (as for all quality)
September 84
October 73
November 76 (as for quality)
December 90 ------
Total 990

There were 990 cases for the Medical.
The distribution for each is as shown in the

Deaths. The deaths from all causes were as follows: -

January	12	37 in 1st quarter.
February	12	
March	13	
April	6	23 in 2nd quarter
May	13	
June	4	
July	11	30 in 3rd quarter
August	10	
September	9	
October	4	16 in 4th quarter
November	4	
December	8	
Total	106	

The death of one non-resident is to be deducted from this total, a lad belonging to H.M.S.Resolution, who died from fracture of the skull. This leaves 105 deaths to calculate the death-rate from. The death-rate for 1897 is 10.60 per 1000. This is an exceedingly low death-rate, the lowest we have had in recent years.

The causes of death are shown in the following table:-

Scarlatina	1
Membraneous Croup	1
Enteric Fever	2
Measles	2
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhoea & Dysentry	7
Rheumatic Fever	1
Phthisis	5
Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy .	16
Heart Disease	9
Injuries	6
All other diseases	54
Total	106

Under the heading "All other diseases" are included 5 cases of Cancer.

The Mortality from all causes at the different age-groups was as follows:-

Under one year	24
One year & under 5 years	15
Five years & under 15 years . . .	3
Fifteen years & under 25 years . .	7
Twenty five years & under 65 years . .	29
Sixty five years & upwards . . .	28
Total	106.

The Infant Mortality rate is 101·265. (By this term we mean the number of children dying under one year old out of each thousand born alive) This is a very low rate. The Infant Mortality during the previous year was 139.534.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic death-rate for 1897 is 1.41.

Scarlatina. Sixteen cases were notified, and one death occurred from this disease.

Enteric Fevery Four cases were notified, and two deaths occurred.

Diphtheria. One case was notified as having occurred in the Verne Citadel.

Erysipelas. Two cases were notified.

RAINFALL.

This has been as follows:-

[illegible] "Ill. Sport" [illegible] Kingston [illegible] of Canada.

The mortality from all causes in the [illegible] was-[illegible] as follows:-

Drink and [illegible]	[illegible]
Oil [illegible]	[illegible]
Pile [illegible]	[illegible]
Fifty [illegible]	[illegible]
Twenty [illegible]	[illegible]
Thirty [illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]

The Prison Mortality rate is 172.3000 (or just [illegible] we need the number of ontario opig under one year but not or even knowing not [illegible]) This is a very low rate. The Prison Mortality during the [illegible] years was 170.0%.

- V I O T I C D I S E A S E S.

The epidemic death-rate for June is 1.4.

Scarlatina. Nineteen cases with fatality. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the Lake Ontario.

Diphtheria. Four cases with fatality. [illegible] [illegible] occurred.

Typhoid. One case was imported as having [illegible] in the Yatom District.

Erysipelas. Two cases with fatality.

I N F A N T L I F E

This was [illegible] as follows:-

follows:-

January	1.28	inches
February	1.86	,,
March	3.52	,,
April	1.74	,,
May	1.35	,,
June	2.98	,,
July	.24	,,
August	3.06	,,
September	2.09	,,
October	.70	,,
November	.04	,,
December	4.84	,,
Total	24.6	inches.

This is about the average fall. The wettest month was December but March had the greatest number of rainy days, rain having fallen on 22 days out of the 31. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 1·34 inches on the 29th December. This phenomenal fall largely accounts for the fact that December is the wettest month in the list. July was the dryest month of the year.

For the above figures I am indebted to the Rev. W. R. Waugh, F.R.A.S. The Observatory, Portland.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Well at Upwey has been sunk to a depth of about 102 feet, and when subjected to test pumping was found to yield about 300,000 gallons in 24 hours. The Council considered this sufficient to warrant them in asking the Local Government Board to sanction the loan for carrying out the necessary Works. An official enquiry was held in August last, by Mr. Tulloch, prior to the Board sanctioning the Loan. The scheme has been impeded by the delay of the

Local

Totals:-

January	[illegible]
February	[illegible]
March	[illegible]
April	[illegible]
May	[illegible]
June	[illegible]
July	[illegible]
August	[illegible]
September	[illegible]
October	[illegible]
November	[illegible]
December	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]

While we leave the [illegible] Fair. The retiring Queen, Mrs [illegible] [illegible] that the present number of [illegible], that number [illegible] or [illegible] days ago on the 7th. The visitors fair for the [illegible] was [illegible] of the 20th December. Only [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Local Government Board in granting their sanction, as although the Enquiry was held in August, the official sanction had not been received at the close of the year. (It was finally received in January 1898)

A sample of water from the Upwey shaft has been ~~analyzed~~ analysed by Dr. Frankland, and reported on as follows:-

Results of Analysis expressed in parts per 100,000.

Total Solid Matters	24.36
Organic Carbon	.029
Organic Nitrogen	.004
Ammonia	None
Nitrogen as nitrates, & nitrites . .	.484
Total Combined Nitrogen	.488
Chlorine	7.4
Temporary Hardness	14.9
Permanent Hardness	3.1
Total Hardness	18.0
Remarks	Turbid.

"This water possesses an extremely high degree of organic purity, and is of most excellent quality for dietetic use. It is of medium hardness, but becomes very soft on boiling. The sample as received by me was turbid, but this no doubt is due to the operations still going on in the Well. Advertisements for tenders for completing the whole of the work are now being issued. One condition is that the work is to be completed within 60 weeks of the signing of the Contract, so that a satisfactory water supply is at last in sight.

D R A I N A G E

This is still in the same unsatisfactory condition. Now that the water scheme is actually being carried out, it is necessary that the Council should lose no time before considering the question of Drainage , as this ought to be carried

through

through in connection with the water scheme.

A new sewer is in course of construction in Clement's Lane, this street having previously been without any sewer. but no work of this kind can be done satisfactorily until the whole matter is taken in hand.

B Y E - L A W S.

Bye-laws have been passed during the year with reference to the following:-

Houses let in lodgings.

Common Lodging-houses.

New Streets & Buildings.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

They have not yet been finally approved by the Local Government Board.

The Offices of the District Council are very unsuitable and insanitary. The Council room is badly ventilated, and at ordinary meetings of the Council is very much over-crowded. The office used by the Surveyor's clerks is very small, there is no fireplace in it, and it is heated by means of an oilStove unprovided with any flue. After the room has been occupied for a short time the air becomes greatly vitiated and in my opinion the room is quite unsuitable for use as an office. No sanitary convenience of any kind is provided for the Surveyor and his clerks.

The Bakehouses, dairies, milk-shops and cowsheds have been duly inspected. Most of the former were found to be very well kept, but some of the cow-sheds were defective and were reported upon to the Council by the Sanitary Inspector.

Various nuisances have been attended to and abated during the year.

Mr. E. J. Elford, Surveyor, in his capacity of Inspector of Nuisances has given me every assistance in his power in connection with Sanitary matters.

Dan. J. Lawson M.D., D.P.H.
M.B.H. Portland